



CONNECTICUT STATE UNIVERSITY
AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF UNIVERSITY PROFESSORS

MEDIA ALERT

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
December 1, 2015

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT:
Liz Newberg, Communications Associate
860-832-3792, 860-881-0805

HARTFORD – Students and faculty from the four Connecticut State Universities will gather from around the state Thursday, Dec. 3, to join forces at a rally outside the Connecticut Board of Regents offices at 61 Woodland St. in defense of quality public higher education. The rally starts at 9:30 a.m. and continues until 10 a.m. when protesters will enter the BOR offices to attend the BOR Meeting.

State Representative [Peter Tercyak](#) will speak at the rally in support of faculty and students at the four CSUs, which include Central Connecticut State University, Eastern Connecticut State University, Southern Connecticut State University and Western Connecticut State University.

Also attending the rally will be members of the Congress of Connecticut Community Colleges, University of Connecticut American Association of University Professors and State University Organization of Administrative Faculty – all present in a show of unity and strength.

This recent protest comes amid rising discontent at contract proposals from the BOR that threaten the quality of education students will receive at the four CSUs. The BOR proposals also cast a chill on academic freedom, which is an essential principle that underpins higher education in our American democracy.

Here are some concerns about the BOR contract proposals:

- **Increase in class size**
- **Professors may be moved to another campus with no notice**, which means students could lose mentoring opportunities that lead to greater career development.
- **Less funding for research or curriculum development** means professors likely will not be up-to-date in latest developments in their field, or teaching methods, or be able to conduct research as part of a class.
- **Entire programs may be eliminated** for financial savings, which means students may have to change majors and alter career goals.
- **Increased administrative duties** for faculty means less time for their students.
- **More part time** professors will be hired, which means less professors available on campus regularly for advising.
- **State support for the CSUs has decreased** by nearly 30 percent since 1993 while costs for CSU students have increased nearly as much.

[To see the BOR proposals go to csuaaup.org.](http://csuaaup.org)

###